

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4043

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, PRESIDENT), BR

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED VISIT TO BRAZIL

REF: BRASILIA 7912

1. SUMMARY. MORE REFLECTIVE SECOND WAVE OF PRESS REACTION HAS CONCLUDED THAT MOTIVATION FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT COMES FROM GROWING PRAGMATISM IN HIS ADMINISTRATION AND RECOGNITION THAT IDEALISM HAS HARMED USG-GOB RELATIONS. MDB LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS MDB'S DESIRE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SPEAK OUT WHILE IN BRAZIL ABOUT HIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND MDB ELEMENTS HAVE INDIRECTLY INDICATED DESIRE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT. PRESS REPORTED THAT SILVEIRA BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY WAS DOMINATED BY DISCUSSION ABOUT PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND RECENTLY DENOUNCED MILITARY ACCORDS. END SUMMARY.

2. SECOND WAVE OF PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS BECOME MORE REFLECTIVE ABOUT ALLEGED MOTIVATION BEHIND VISIT. COMMON THREAD HAS BEEN CONCLUSION OF EDITORIAL WRITERS AND COMMENTATORS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S IDEALISM IN FOREIGN
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POLICY IS GIVING WAY TO REALISM. THEY SEE PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO VISIT BRAZIL AS EVIDENCE OF HIS RECOGNITION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY MAY HAVE HAD NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR US FOREIGN POLICY, AND THAT HE IS NOW TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS. IN SUPPORT OF THIS THESIS, PRESS HAS REPORTED IN DETAIL ARTICLE IN RECENT ISSUE OF FOREIGN POLICY BY ROGER W. FONTAINE, OF THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, WHICH CRITICIZED

CARTER POLICY TOWARD BRAZIL FOR RUINING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOB. SIMILARLY, PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO OCTOBER 1 HEADLINED IN LEAD STORY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REPORTEDLY ADMITTED ERROS IN HIS POLICY TOWARDS BRAZIL. STORY QUOTED RECENT ITALIAN ISSUE OF READERS DIGEST, IN WHICH PRESIDENT ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT THE ONLY MISTAKE IN HIS ADMINISTRATION UNTIL NOW HAD OCCURRED IN CONDUCT OF ITS RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF VISIT, O ESTADO REPORTED UNIDENTIFIED BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS HAVE INDICATED THAT BRAZIL WILL NOT WAIT FOR A CARTER INITIATIVE IN DISCUSSING THE FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD DURING PRESIDENT'S VISIT. ON THE CONTRARY, PAPER REPORTED, BRAZIL WILL OPEN THE DISCUSSION BY SEEKING DEFINITIVE WORD ABOUT THE US SUPPLYING BRAZIL WITH ENRICHED URANIUM FOR HER REACTOR PROGRAM (I.E., FUEL FOR ANGRA I). O ESTADO'S SOURCE SAID GOB WOULD AVOID EXPRESSIONS THAT WOULD JEOPARIZE A HOSPITABLE CLIMATE, INSISTING THAT "A POSITION OF SOVEREIGNTY IS NOT A HOSTILE POSITION." SOURCE CONTINUED THAT US MUST ACCEPT THAT BRAZIL IS SUFFICIENTLY MATURE TO DIRECT ITS OWN DESTINY. SOURCE ALSO SAW PRESIDENT'S VISIT AS EVIDENCE US WANTED TO REESTABLISH TIES THAT HAD BEEN WEAKENED WITH SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING BRAZIL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

4. ON ANOTHER ASPECT OF REACTION TO VISIT, MDB LEADERS AT A RECENT LUNCHEON EXPRESSED INDIVIDUALLY TO EMBOFFS PRESENT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLLECTIVELY AS A GROUP MDB DESIRE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SPEAK OUT WHILE IN BRAZIL ON HIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION, MDB SENATOR GILVAN ROCHA TOLD PRESS BEFORE LUNCHEON THAT PARTY WOULD TELL EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES THAT MDB WANTED TO "SPEAK DIRECTLY AND FRANKLY WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN PRESIDENT." SUBJECT WAS NOT BROACHED AT LUNCHEON, HOWEVER. GILVAN LATER EXPLAINED TO PRESS THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN RAISED BECAUSE US REPRESENTATIVES HAD ALREADY BECOME AWARE OF MDB DESIRE THROUGH PRESS. (COMMENT: NO ONE IN MDB HAS YET MADE SUCH REQUEST TO EMBASSY. END COMMENT.)

5. ARENA SECGEN NELSON MARCHEZAN CRITICIZED MDB'S ALLEGED PLANS TO SEEK A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AFFIRMING THAT THE OPPOSITION CANNOT INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE ON DOMESTIC SCENE THROUGH THE VISIT, "BECAUSE THIS (VISIT) REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT GEISEL." SIMILARLY, ARENA SENATE LEADER REZENDE SAID PRESIDENT'S VISIT WOULD NOT INFLUENCE BRAZILIAN DOMESTIC POLICY. O ESTADO ANALYSIS OF MDB ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRESIDENT'S VISIT SAID MDB WOULD PARTICIPATE IN PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN TERMS AGREED TO BY BOTH US AND BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENTS, BUT THAT MDB WOULD AVOID ANY POSTURE THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED -- AND CRITIZIED -- AS INVITING PRESIDENT CARTER TO INTERFERE IN

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF BRAZIL.

6. OCTOBER 2 PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA IN NEW YORK STRESSED THAT MAIN TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT AND RECENTLY DENOUNCED MILITARY ACCORDS. SILVEIRA DESCRIBED CONVERSATION AS GENERAL AND SAID HE AND SECRETARY WOULD EXCHANGE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISIT OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. REGARDING THE DENOUNCED MILITARY AGREEMENTS, SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY SAID "HE (SECRETARY VANCE) TOLD ME THAT HE UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY. HE THINKS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE VERY GOOD AND HE APPEARED TO ME SUFFICIENTLY OPTIMISTIC. OUR MEETING WAS VERY GOOD." ON POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED OCTOBER VISIT, O ESTADO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CORRESPONDENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA AT UNGA SAID SILVEIRA CONSIDERED THE POSTPONEMENT "REASONABLE." CORRESPONDENT SAID PROPOSAL WAS CLEARLY ACCEPTABLE TO SILVEIRA.
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